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TO: 18 G - Mr. Wirth
FROM: AF - George E. Moose
SUBJECT: Rwanda/Burundi Update as of June 23

RWANDA

Ex-FAR preparing to move?: The outgoing deputy head of UNAMIR's civilian security liaison group in Eastern Zaire, Canadian General Ian Douglas, has said that the ex-FAR is preparing to invade Rwanda, probably within six months. Douglas cited 3 large military camps in the Goma region, where 25-30,000 ex-FAR plus Interhamwe (Hutu) militia are training for an offensive. In June 14 and 15 meetings, Vice President and Minister of Defense Kagame and Health Minister Colonel Karemera told Embassy Kigali that although there are no plans afoot to move against the ex-FAR in Zaire, the RPA is ready to react if provoked. We have made demarches to both governments of Zaire and Rwanda on the need to prevent any expansion of the conflict in the sub-region.

UNAMIR: Ethiopia threatens withdrawal: At a June 23 meeting with Ambassador Rawson, UNAMIR Force Commander Tousignant described plans to reduce the Ethiopian contingent from battalion to company strength in order to comply with the new mandate's troop limitations. The Ethiopians are warning, however, that they will withdraw from Rwanda if their force is halved in this way. Because of their strong working relationship with the RPA, critical area of deployment, and indications that a cross-border attack of some kind by the ex-FAR may be imminent, Ambassador Rawson believes it would be a mistake for the Ethiopians to leave. A/S Moose will raise the issue with the Ethiopians during his upcoming visit to Addis.

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- 2 -

BURUNDI

Current situation: Burundi is generally quiet but tense as the week ends. Bujumbura is calm, but sporadic fighting continues in the Kamenge suburb. The National Assembly is meeting in extraordinary session to discuss the new security measures announced by President Ntibantunganya on June 18, but has not yet granted the President the authority to implement the new measures. In practice, however, the government has already begun implementation of measures such as internal travel controls.

Ambassador Krueger's security: Embassy Bujumbura reports that RSO and EAC have decided that the present level of security (the RSO and one TDY RSO) is sufficient to meet the current threat level in Bujumbura. Additional agents sent to Burundi to investigate the June 14 attack on Ambassador Krueger's convoy on route to DC.

Preventive diplomacy: The reaction of European allies and Japan has been generally positive to our demarche on additional preventive diplomacy measures to deter further violence in Burundi. Germany plans to add Burundi and the U.S. preventive diplomacy proposals to the agenda for the July 5-6 EU Africa Working Group meeting.

Commission of Inquiry: A draft cable on the U.S. position on the Commission of Inquiry is circulating for clearance. The cable incorporates concerns expressed by Ambassador Krueger concerning the length and scope of the mandate. Our strategy is to table a resolution to speed up the UN process.

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cleared:AF/C:ARender
AF:EBrynn
IO/PHO:GStettenbauer (info)
IO/UNP:GStanton (info)
DRL:CNix (info)
G:AJoyce
DS:MMulvey

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